GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 4 OF 1944.

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# RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1944.

## All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for September quarter 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1,071, Toowoomba 1,084, Rockhampton 1,074, Townsville 1,117, Bundaberg 1,057, and Warwick 1,063.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

| City | September Quarter, 1944 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With - | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Year Ended June, 1939. | September Quarter, 1943. | June Quarter, 1944. |
| Brisbane .. .. | 24.1 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 27.4 | 0.6 | -0.1 |
| Rockhampton .. .. | 24.7 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Townsville .. .. | 22.5 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Bundaberg .. .. | 25.7 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Warwick .. .. | 29.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 |

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

| City | Food and Groceries | | Clothing and Footwear | | Miscellaneous Items | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr., 1944. | Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr., 1944. | Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939. | Percentage Increase or Decrease on June Qr., 1944. |
| Brisbane .. | 12.6 | -0.3 | 72.4 | 0.3 | 19.6 | -0.2 |
| Toowoomba .. | 23.0 | -0.4 | 69.4 | 0.3 | 18.8 | -0.2 |
| Rockhampton .. | 11.7 | -0.7 | 72.4 | 0.4 | 20.9 | -0.4 |
| Townsville .. | 9.8 | -0.2 | 73.6 | 0.1 | 18.9 | -0.3 |
| Bundaberg .. | 13.4 | -0.8 | 71.6 | -0.1 | 18.2 | 0.0 |
| Warwick .. | 16.5 | -0.2 | 72.0 | 0.4 | 21.3 | -0.1 |

## Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for September quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 922, Toowoomba 943, Rockhampton 907, Townsville 975, Bundaberg 884, Warwick 887.

From June quarter 1944 to September quarter 1944 this index decreased in all towns. The percentage decreases were as follows, Brisbane 0.2, Toowoomba 0.3, Rockhampton 0.4, Townsville 0.1, Bundaberg 0.6, and Warwick 0.1.

The decrease in all towns was mainly due to a seasonal fall in the price of eggs.

Rents were unaltered in all towns.

Compared with September quarter 1943 the combined Food and Rent Index decreased in Brisbane by 0.3%, but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns, Toowoomba 3.0, Rockhampton 1.0, Townsville 1.1, Bundaberg 0.1, and Warwick 2.0.

The Food and Grocery Index declined in Brisbane (0.4%) and remained stationary in Bundaberg, but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns, Toowoomba 4.7, Rockhampton 1.5, Townsville 1.8, and Warwick 2.4.

The decrease in Brisbane was due to the reduction in the price of potatoes and the increase in Toowoomba was due to an increase in the price of milk and meat which offset the decrease in potatoes.

Rents remained stationary in Toowoomba and Townsville and fell by 0.1 per cent. in Rockhampton, but rose in Brisbane (0.1%), Bundaberg (0.6%) and Warwick (1.1%).

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" series index increased by the following percentages - Brisbane 8.2, Toowoomba 14.9, Rockhampton 8.4, Townsville 6.4, Bundaberg 10.6, and Warwick 15.5.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September quarter 1944 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

| City | All Items | Food and Groceries | Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) | Clothing and Footwear |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Brisbane .. .. | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 | 1. 0. 0 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 1. 0. 3 | 1. 0. 9 | 19.11 | 19. 8 |
| Rockhampton .. .. | 1. 0. 1 | 1. 0. 9 | 17. 9 | 1. 0. 5 |
| Townsville .. .. | 1. 0.10 | 1. 1. 9 | 1. 0. 1 | 1. 0. 5 |
| Bundaberg .. .. | 19. 9 | 1. 1. 3 | 15. 7 | 1. 0. 2 |
| Warwick .. .. | 19.10 | 1. 0. 5 | 17. 1 | 19.10 |

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

| State | METROPOLITAN | | | | STATE AVERAGES b. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Price Index Nos. "C" Series | Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane | Actual Basic Wage a. | Margin in Favour of Brisbane | Price Index Nos. "C" Series | Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland | State Basic Wage | Margin in Favour of Q'land. |
| | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | s. d. | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | s. d. |
| Queensland | 1071 | 4.17. 0 | 4.17. 0 | - | 1075 | - | 4.17. 8 | - |
| N.S.W. | 1146 | 5. 3.10 | 4.19. 0 | 4.10 | 1142 | 5. 3. 9 | 4.19. 0 | 4. 9 |
| Victoria | 1140 | 5. 3. 3 | 4.18. 0 | 5. 3 | 1136 | 5. 3. 3 | 4.17.10 | 5. 5 |
| South Aust. | 1101 | 4.19. 9 | 4.14. 0 | 5. 9 | 1096 | 4.19. 7 | 4.14. 0 | 5. 7 |
| West. Aust. | 1110 | 5. 0. 6 | 4.19.11 | 7 | 1118 | 5. 1. 7 | 5. 0. 5 | 1. 2 |
| Tasmania | 1110 | 5. 0. 6 | 4.14. 0 | 6. 6 | 1094 | 4.19. 4 | 4.13. 0 | 6. 4 |

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

## RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

### THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

| City | Year Ended Decr. 1928 | Year Ended June 1939 | Year Ended Sept. 1944. | QUARTERS ENDED - Sept. 1943 | Decr. 1943 | March 1944 | June 1944 | Sept. 1944 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brisbane .. .. | 917 | 863 | 1071 | 1074 | 1068 | 1072 | 1072 | 1071 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 906 | 851 | 1085 | 1078 | 1083 | 1087 | 1085 | 1084 |
| Rockhampton .. | 903 | 861 | 1075 | 1074 | 1073 | 1075 | 1076 | 1074 |
| Townsville .. .. | 1023 | 912 | 1116 | 1114 | 1113 | 1116 | 1119 | 1117 |
| Bundaberg .. .. | (b) | 841 | 1057 | 1058 | 1053 | 1056 | 1060 | 1057 |
| Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) .. | 915 | 864 | 1075 | 1076 | 1072 | 1075 | 1076 | 1075 |
| Warwick .. .. | 914 | 822 | 1060 | 1059 | 1057 | 1059 | 1062 | 1063 |

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

### FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

| City | Year Ended Decr. 1928 | Year Ended June 1939 | Year Ended Sept. 1944 | QUARTERS ENDED - Sept. 1943 | Decr. 1943 | March 1944 | June 1944 | Sept. 1944 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brisbane .. .. | 901 | 852 | 921 | 925 | 914 | 925 | 924 | 922 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 833 | 821 | 942 | 916 | 934 | 945 | 946 | 943 |
| Rockhampton .. | 858 | 837 | 907 | 898 | 900 | 909 | 911 | 907 |
| Townsville .. .. | 1047 | 916 | 972 | 964 | 962 | 973 | 976 | 975 |
| Bundaberg .. .. | (b) | 799 | 885 | 883 | 878 | 887 | 889 | 884 |
| Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) | 892 | 851 | 924 | 924 | 916 | 927 | 927 | 925 |
| Warwick .. .. | 841 | 768 | 882 | 870 | 871 | 880 | 888 | 887 |

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

### AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

| Commodity & Unit of Quantity | Year Ended June 1939 | MONTH OF June 1944 | MONTH OF Sept. 1944 | Commodity & Unit of Quantity | Year Ended June 1939 | MONTH OF June 1944 | MONTH OF Sept. 1944 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | d. | d. | d. | | d. | d. | d. |
| Bread .. 2 lb. | 5.33 | 5.50 | 5.50 | Oats - flaked .. 1 lb. | 3.57 | 4.07 | 4.06 |
| Flour .. 2 lb. | 3.73 | 4.09 | 4.09 | Milk .. .. 1 qt. | 6.00 | 7.10 | 7.10 |
| Tea .. 1 lb. | 26.99 | 27.05 | 27.05 | Beef - Sirloin Roast .. .. 1 lb. | 8.73 | 11.90 | 11.90 |
| Sugar .. 1 lb. | 3.98 | 3.98 | 3.98 | | | | |
| Jam (Plum) 1½ lb. | 8.02 | 12.55 | 12.45 | Beef - Steak Rump .. .. 1 lb. | 11.34 | 16.90 | 16.90 |
| Raisins .. 1 lb. | 10.57 | 12.55 | 12.55 | | | | |
| Potatoes 7 lb. | 14.88 | 8.37 | 8.37 | Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb. | 5.83 | 7.90 | 7.95 |
| Onions .. 1 lb. | 2.93 | 3.00 | 3.00 | | | | |
| Soap .. 1 lb. | 6.20 | 7.03 | 7.03 | Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb. | 5.48 | 7.90 | 7.95 |
| Butter .. 1 lb. | 19.00 | 19.91 | 19.91 | | | | |
| Cheese .. 1 lb. | 13.28 | 15.00 | 15.00 | Mutton - leg .. 1 lb. | 7.75 | 8.45 | 8.50 |
| Eggs .. 1 doz. | 19.69 | 27.73 | 22.00 | Mutton - chops Loin .. .. 1 lb. | 7.78 | 8.45 | 8.40 |

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

BRISBANE.

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